

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 10, 11, 13-15, 43, 53, 54, 56, 86-90, 92-94 and 96 remain pending in the instant application. All claims presently stand rejected. Applicants amend claims 10 and 53.

Applicants assert that no new matter is added herein as amendments to claims 10 and 53 are supported at least by page 13, lines 13-14, block 309 of FIG. 3 and block 605 of FIG. 6.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims and additional claims in view of at least the following remarks.

I. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Patent office rejects claims 86 and 96 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as failing to comply with the written description requirement because the specification fails to teach a rate at which content and content descriptors are received at the client. Applicant respectfully disagrees as page 24, line 21 through page 25, line 5 and Fig. C teach that the threshold is finely tuned to each client system to consider the rate at which content is broadcast and the rate at which content descriptors are broadcast from the server to the client (e.g. see Figs. 1A through 2; block 303, 403 of Figs. 3 and 4A of the application); as well as the bandwidth capacity of the link from the client to the server. Thus, it is inherent that the rate at which the content and content descriptors are broadcast by the server is the same as the rate at which the content and content descriptors are received at the client. Hence, Applicants respectfully request the rejection above be withdrawn.

II. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 10, 12-15, 53, 55-56, 86-93, 94 and 96 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 6,177,931 to Alexander et al. (Alexander) in view of US Patent 5,872,588 to Aras et al. (Aras) in further view of US Patent 5,758,257 to Herz et al. (Herz). Claims 11 and 54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alexander in view of Aras in further view of Herz in further view of US Patent 6,990,676 to Proehl et al. (Proehl).

“To establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. All words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art.” M.P.E.P. § 2143.03.

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of the prior art cited by the Examiner fails to teach or suggest wherein the generation of demand data related to the pieces of content described by the content descriptors comprises receiving explicit user input regarding specific pieces of content, the explicit user input comprising the user assigning a specific single desirability value for each piece of content of some of the pieces of content available, the specific single desirability value assigning a relative order of each piece of content among the pieces of content as required by amended claim 10.

Applicants have amended claims 10 and 53 to require a specific single desirability value for each piece of content, that assigns a relative order of each piece of content among the pieces of content which is not taught by Herz. Instead, Herz teaches that a customer may be asked to state his/her most preferred level for a characteristic for a viewed section of a video just viewed, such a level of action of a movie segment (Col. 14 lines 10-35). Herz describes generating initial customer profiles by having customers either giving acceptable ranges for characteristics which identify a video program (see col. 12, lines 11-32), where such characteristics include film genre, directors, actors, degree of sex, degree of violence, degree of profanity, MPAA rating, etc. (see col. 11, lines 45-57). Alternatively, the user can develop an initial customer profile by giving a specific rating for each category (see col. 12, lines 11-22). However, neither of these situations describe the user assigning a specific single desirability value for each piece of content of some of the pieces of content available, the specific single desirability value assigning a relative order of each piece of content among the pieces of content as required by the claims.

Herz also describes content profiles generated by questionnaires completed by a panel of experts or customers to determine the objective characteristic scores for the media to compare to the user profiles (see col. 13, lines 12-28). Thus, this also does not describe the user assigning a specific single desirability value for each piece of content of some of the pieces of content available, the specific single desirability value assigning a relative order of each piece of content among the pieces of content, prior to sending the demand feedback data to a server after a predetermined amount of pieces have been utilized, as required by claim 10. Instead, it is simply questionnaires filled out by groups of people to determine, for example, that the movie "Lots of

Blood" is a more violent movie than the movie "Beautiful Day," so that when a user's profile indicates that the user prefers non-violent movies, the server knows to send "Beautiful Day" to the user rather than "Lots of Blood."

Herz also teaches that a user may provide active feedback referred, to as a "rave review," by reviewing short sections of different video programs, each characterized by a few characteristics and the objective characteristic levels of those characteristics, and then based on that experience, identifying his or her most preferred level for the characteristic (see col. 14, lines 11-28). For example, a user may review "Lots of Blood," which is assigned an action value of 8, and then based on that experience, the user may know that the user prefers a rating of between 4 and 6 as an acceptable range for the characteristic "action" (see col. 14, lines 11-28). Thus, this also does not describe the user assigning a specific single desirability value for each piece of content of some of the pieces of content available, the specific single desirability value assigning a relative order of each piece of content among the pieces of content, but instead describe selecting a preferred acceptance range for a characteristic that may be associated with various different content.

Consequently, the Patent Office has not identified and Applicants are unable to find any teaching or suggestion of the above noted limitation of claim 10 in Herz.

Alexander teaches that the EPG records the viewer's actions and the circumstances surrounding those actions, such as when the viewer changes channels; provides instruction to record or watch a program; or changes volume (Col. 28 lines 30-52). Consequently, the Patent Office has not identified and Applicants are unable to find any teaching or suggestion of the above noted limitation of claim 10 in Alexander.

Aras teaches detecting changes in channels, such as from a remote or a controller or a channel changer (Col. 15 lines 34-57). Consequently, the Patent Office has not identified and Applicants are unable to find any teaching or suggestion of the above noted limitation of claim 10 in Aras.

Also, Proehl et al. (US Patent 6,990,676) (cited against claims other than claim 10) fails to cure the deficiencies of the references noted above. The Patent Office asserts that Proehl teaches that previews of future television programs can be locally stored at the client (see col. 14, line 67 – col. 15 line 17; and col. 17 lines 15-25). However, the Patent Office has not identified

and Applicants are unable to find any teaching in Proehl of the above-noted limitations of amended claim 10.

In addition, the claims are beyond combining the teachings of the references as asserted by the Patent Office because the user assigned specific single desirability value assigning a relative order of each piece of content among the pieces of content provides unexpected benefits that are not taught or enabled by the teachings of the references, or the combination thereof. Specifically, embodiments described in the specification of the present application, for example, without limitation thereto, provide the unexpected benefits of: (a) providing demand data generated by considering explicit specific single user desirability value feedback at the client for each piece of content, or based on previous user behavior or content consumption (specification page 13 lines 19-21; claims 10, 53 and 94); (b) so that demand data feedback can be sent from the client to the server after the demand data related to the utilized pieces of content has been generated for a predetermined threshold count of a plurality of pieces of content rated (claim 10) for users who generate the explicit input at different rates (specification page 24 line 10 through page 25 line 5; claim 87); (c) such as to customize the amount of data sent in the feedback for different back channel bandwidth connections, between various clients and the server (specification page 8 lines 1-19; line 21 through page 25 line 3; and claims 86 and 96). However, none of the cited references provide any of these benefits.

Hence, Applicants respectfully request the Patent Office withdraw the rejection above for independent claim 10.

Next, Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection above for claim 53 for at least the reason that the cited references do not teach or suggest to send demand data feedback to the server after a predetermined amount of the pieces of content has been utilized since the last time demand data feedback was sent to the server and the demand data related to the utilized pieces of content has been generated for a count of the number of pieces of content rated that exceeds a predetermined threshold number, wherein the generation of demand data related to the pieces of content described by the content descriptors comprises receiving explicit user input regarding specific pieces of content, the explicit user input comprising the user assigning a specific single desirability value for each piece of content of some of the pieces of content available, the specific single desirability value assigning a relative order of each piece of content among the pieces of content, as required by amended claim 53. An argument analogous to the one above

for claim 10 applies here as well. Hence, for at least the reasons above for claim 10, Applicants respectfully request the Patent Office withdraw the rejection above for claim 53.

Next, Applicants disagree with the rejection of claims 86 and 96 for at least the reason that the cited references do not teach or suggest sending demand data feedback from the client to the server after the demand data related to a predetermined amount of pieces of content is generated for a predetermined threshold count of a plurality of pieces of content rated after the predetermined amount of pieces of content have been utilized, the demand data feedback to indicate the relative desirability of the pieces of content available for future broadcasts, wherein the generation of demand data related to the pieces of content described by the content descriptors comprises receiving explicit user input regarding specific pieces of content, the explicit user input comprising one of ranking a relative order of some of the pieces of content available, and generating a list of absolute rating numbers for some of the pieces of content available wherein the threshold is selected considering a bandwidth capacity, a rate at which content is received at the client, and a rate at which the content descriptors are received at the client of a connection between the client and the server, as required by amended claims 86 and 96.

Alexander teaches that the EPG records the viewer's actions and the circumstances surrounding those actions, such as when the viewer changes channels; provides instruction to record or watch a program; or changes volume (Col. 28 lines 30-52). Herz teaches that a customer may be asked to state his/her most preferred level for a characteristic for a viewed section of a video just viewed, such a level of action of a movie segment (Col. 14 lines 10-35). Also, Proehl et al. (US Patent 6,990,676) (cited against claims other than claim 10) fails to cure the deficiencies of the references noted above. Aras teaches determining how much data to send based on bandwidth capacity (see column 20, line 33 through column 22, line 26). However, Aras does not teach selecting a predetermined threshold count for determining when to send data, considering a bandwidth capacity, as required by claims 86 and 96.

The Patent Office cites Aras column 21, line 43 through column 22, line 2 to teach that the threshold is selected considering a rate at which content and content descriptors are received at the client, as required by claims 86 and 96. Applicants disagree because Aras teaches monitoring the reverse channel from the client to the server to cause the home stations to revert to batched transmission of behavior collection tables (BCT) from the home station to the server

when reverse channel utilization measurement exceed a threshold; and to allow new BCT entries to be thrown away when reverse channel congestion exceeds a stop-send threshold (see column 21, line 19 through column 22, line 2). Consequently, this does not teach selecting a threshold for sending demand data feedback based on a rate at which content and content descriptors are received at a client, as required by claim 86. Hence, none of the references teach or enable the above-noted limitations of amended claims 86 and 96.

In addition, by sending demand feedback data from the client to the server after the demand data related to a predetermined amount of pieces of content is generated for a predetermined threshold count of a plurality of pieces of content rated after the predetermined amount of pieces of content have been utilized . . . wherein the threshold is selected considering a rate at which content and content descriptors are received at the client, for example, without limitation thereto, embodiments described in the application provide at least the unexpected benefits of considering how many pieces of content rated are required to generate an amount of demand data feedback data that will have an impact on a low or high bandwidth capacity connection, such as so that the connection from the server to the client is not overloaded with data (e.g., see page 8 lines 1-19; and page 24 line 15 to page 25 line 5 of the application). However, none of the references teach or enable such a consideration.

Hence, for at least the reasons above, Applicants respectfully request the Patent Office withdraw the rejection above for claims 86 and 96.

III. Dependent Claims

The dependent claims not mentioned above are non-obvious over the prior art of record for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with their respective independent claims, in addition to adding further limitations of their own.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that all of the rejections above of the claims be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

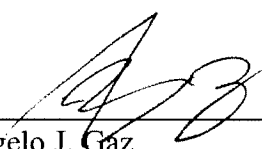
In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record, and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would be useful in moving the case forward, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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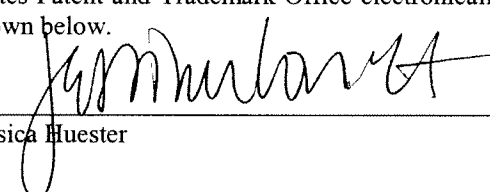


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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

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Jessica Huester

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Date